

## **Finalized Minutes**

### **St. George Conservation Commission for Thursday October 1, 2020**

**Attendance:** Via Zoom: Members: Joss Coggeshall, Dan Verrillo, Ken Oelberger, Ingrid Mroz, and Tom Gorrill; Also: Anita Siegenthaler (FoSG) and John Meyer.

#### **Announcements:**

- Dick Pelletier wants to put in his own culvert on his property on Boulder Hill Rd to allow smelt access. Joss and Ken will contact him.

**Modifications to Agenda:** None.

**Minutes:** Motion by Joss to approve last month's minutes. Seconded by Tom. Approved unanimously.

#### **Old Business**

##### **Footpaths: (Tom)**

- Fort Point: Meeting on Sept. 8<sup>th</sup> with four members of the ME Bureau of Parks & Lands. Tom, Jerry and Tim attended. After a site walk they thought that an Universal Access(UA) trail gives regional opportunity. The Recreational Trail Program (RTP) only offers one \$120K grant a year and therefore the grant must include the Fort Point Monument to make it special enough, which is State owned. Another possibility is to apply for two grants: a Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) grant with a 50% match requirement and a Recreational Trail Program grant to cover the match. The Town will be responsible for the engineering and survey costs. The Town would also be responsible for management of the trail and monument. ([See Draft Meeting Notes attached](#))
- SB meeting on Sept. 14<sup>th</sup>: Recommend that Jerry Hall form an ad hoc committee to work out a Fort Point plan. The committee should include Ken, Jerry, Tim, John Falla, Tom and Dale Pierson. Group met on Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>. Will bring before the SB on Oct. 5<sup>th</sup>.
- Meadow Brook: Tom will pick up cedar for bridgework next week with Ken.
- Trail closings for hunting: Notice on CC website. Jones Brook needs another sign.
- Les Hyde trail: Photo needs replacing. Kiosks need sprucing up. Memorial tree may need replacing.

##### **Land Trust Coordination: (Ken).**

- Dwight and Glen Haight contacted Annette Naegel (GRLT) and Ken about property along the marsh that they want to put into conservation status. Meeting planned for Oct. 19<sup>th</sup> to explore the property (12 acres on Walston Rd. side).

##### **Education: (Ingrid)**

- Solar Program: Sept. 21<sup>st</sup> dry run went well. Zoom webinar tonight at 6:30 with Kendra Jo Grindle (Island Institute) along with Seth Berry and a Q&A panel with Richard Bates, Ann Matlack and Dan. Elaine Kennedy (CDC) and Ann helped with PR. Dan has three

vendors to participate in a Q&A webinar on November 12<sup>th</sup>. Need better pictures for advertising.

**Invasives (John K.)** Not here

**Website Update (Ken/John M.)**

- Updates should be submitted as drafts to Ken before submitting the John to avoid confusion.
- Updates for the Solar webinars will be submitted.

**Climate Change:** (Dan)

Sea Level Rise:

- Ad hoc SL Rise Committee: The checklist subgroups met on Sept. 18<sup>th</sup> and decided that more specific data need to be gathered specifically for the St. George peninsula. We will determine the most vulnerable areas by using the SLR interactive maps and assign a value of 3.9 ft. This will show where the greatest impact will occur over the next thirty years. Once identified we will look for volunteers to collect data during significant high tides and storm surge events. The data can be photographs, SL gauge readings and salinity readings for marshes and streams.

Solar:

- The CC Climate page will link to the Education page to reflect the webinars scheduled in October and November.

**Resource Maps:** (Ken, Dan)

- Ken and Dan will meet with GRLT this month to finalize the updates.

**New Business**

**Select Board Update:** (Tammy) Not here.

**Planning Board Update:** (Terry) Not here.

**Motion by Joss to adjourn meeting. Seconded by Ingrid. Approved unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted by Dan Verrillo

# DRAFT Meeting Notes on Planning a New Fort Point Trail

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Date: 9-8-20

Location: Fort Point Trail

Attendees: BPL Director Andy Cutko, BPL Northern Parks Regional Manager Mark Deroche, BPL Director of Real Property Management David Rodrigues, BPL Outdoor Recreation Supervisor Doug Beck, Town of St. George selectman Jerry Hall, Town Manager Tim Polky, Conservation Commission member Tom Gorrill

Purpose of Meeting: To familiarize everyone with the trail and Fort Point and to discuss the options for collaborative management of this site between the BPL and the Town.

Summary of Discussion:

- BPL staff asked who currently mows the property. Tim responded the abutter, Richard Paulson.
- Doug Beck noted that he previously visited the trail in May and it was very wet and poorly drained. He said if the trail was rebuilt to meet UA (Universal Access) standards that it would present a unique regional opportunity as there are no other UA trails in this region.
- Doug Beck reviewed the mechanics of funding options for the trail under The Regional Trails Program (RTP). Typically, grant awards are under \$50,000 with a 20% match. He noted, however, that they will award one grant each funding season for \$120,000 with a 20% match. However, to qualify the project must be unique among the applicants. The Fort Point trail would not qualify as being a unique opportunity as a UA trail unless the Fort Point site was part of the project and improved to UA standards.

- Doug said that the Land and Water (LW) grant program could be combined with the RTP funds to address a combined project consisting of UA access for the trail, Fort Point and the related parking. The RTP funding could be used for the Town's match for the LW grant. Doug saw this as the only viable way to address both UA projects together from a funding perspective. Under this combined RTP/UA grant, the BPL staff agreed the following criteria would need to be met:
  - The Town would have to fund a boundary survey of the town property and Fort Point as well as the design of both the trail and Fort Point and submit those plans as part of the applications. The plans would need to be stamped by a registered land surveyor (RLS) and a Professional Engineer (PE). Jerry asked if the Town's future maintenance of the property could be considered in a project funding formula. Doug said it cannot be considered in the formula.
  - For funding purposes, the property would be considered as one and the perimeter would be designated a 6f project boundary, which is a federal designation delineating the funding limits.
  - The Town would need to enter into a Maintenance Agreement with the BPL. While the terms of the Agreement would need to be negotiated, it generally is limited to mowing, trash pickup and sign maintenance. Public restrooms and trash cans would not be required.
  - The property will need to have public access. Tim said he thought the access may still be owned by the Maine DOT following reconstruction of Route 131 in 1972. Tom said he could obtain record drawings from the MDOT.
  - The BPL said it would be best if the spring were not part of the 6f project boundary.

Notes prepared by Tom Gorrill 9-8-20

